The Story of Isa (AS): Iblis and the Four Donkeys

Islamic Stories - Volume 24

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Chapter 1: A Spiritual Encounter in the Wilderness

The Unexpected Meeting: A Journey Interrupted

During one of his solitary journeys, Isa (AS) encountered a peculiar figure in the wilderness.

This man, later revealed to be Iblis, was engrossed in a strange task: he was urging forward four donkeys.

Each donkey bore a heavy load, their backs burdened with concealed wares.

Drawn by a sense of curiosity and spiritual vigilance, Isa (AS) approached the man and inquired about the nature of his merchandise and his intentions.

Isa (AS):

“What are you doing with these donkeys, and what is the nature of the goods they carry?”

Iblis:

“These are goods for trade. I am seeking buyers for them.”

The First Load: Tyranny and Its Clientele

Isa (AS) turned his gaze to the first donkey and posed a question about its load.

Isa (AS):

“What are you carrying on this first donkey?”

Iblis:

“Tyranny.”

Isa (AS):

“And who buys this?”

Iblis:

“Kings.”

The Second Burden: Envy Among Scholars

Isa (AS) then gestured towards the second donkey and continued his inquiry.

Isa (AS):

“What is the burden of the second donkey?”

Iblis:

“Envy.”

Isa (AS):

“Who are its buyers?”

Iblis:

“The scholars.”

The Third Parcel: Treachery and Traders

His attention now turned to the third beast of burden, Isa (AS) maintained his line of questioning.

Isa (AS):

“What is loaded on the third?”

Iblis:

“Treachery.”

Isa (AS):

“And who purchases this?”

Iblis:

“The merchants.”

The Final Donkey: Deception in Disguise

Finally, he looked to the last donkey and asked the same question one final time.

Isa (AS):

“And what is the fourth carrying?”

Iblis:

“Deceit and trickery.”

Isa (AS):

“Who would buy this?”

Iblis:

“Women.”